

~~TOP SECRET~~
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

29 JUN 1964

**MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

As a result of the initial studies on use of the GAMBIT orbital vehicle for CORONA, I have decided to proceed with the design and procurement of four conversion kits which will make the CORONA payload and the GAMBIT vehicle compatible, thus providing the option of using either GAMBIT or CORONA payloads on the GAMBIT orbital vehicle.

Once these kits become available, a CORONA mission can be conducted with a GAMBIT vehicle in seventeen (17) weeks. This option could be exercised in the event of additional difficulties with the Agena as an orbital vehicle, or if the added capabilities of the GAMBIT vehicle - orbital adjust and flexible in-flight loaded programmer - are desired for specific CORONA missions.

In addition such action provides - at an estimated FY 1965 cost of [redacted] to G.E. and [redacted] to ITEX - the elements of a competitive relationship between G.E. and INSC which will be, I believe, to the government's advantage.

SIGNED:

Brockway McMillan
Director
(S) National Reconnaissance Office

cc: Deputy Secretary of Defense

CORONA
GAMBIT

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY

ROOM 7-12-12

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